

Mr. Navecky,

Our concerns regarding the request of Great Lakes Basin Transportation Inc. to construct and operate a new railway are many. Today we would like to address wildlife in our area.

Our home and property are located in Bradford Township along Turtle Creek, about half a mile away of the proposed rail.

Wildlife typically follows streams, lakes and wetlands in order to find food and water as well as find places for travel and breeding. Disruptions in these corridors such as roadways, bridges and rails fragments them, resulting in negative impacts on both flora and fauna. The importance of continuous wildlife corridors is well described in many publications.

A pair of bald eagles is nesting less than a mile from the proposed track. We have had a pair of sandhill cranes nest in a wetland on our property for the last couple of years. This area is frequented by deer, fox, coyote, turkey, pheasants, raccoons, possums to mention just a few, even a cougar was sighted here a few years ago. Turtle Creek is home to a variety of fish, turtles and clams. Birdlife is abundant and includes great horned owls, kestrels, eagles, hawks, several species of cranes, as well as kingfishers and many wood and other duck species. Our 150+ year old lime stone barn is home to a thriving colony of bats.

Part of our property is in a Soil and Water Conservation program, part is in a Managed Forest Program. We have installed riparian buffers along the creek. All this because we value the land and everything that lives on and in it.

The proposed project will not add anything positive to the natural beauty and diversity of this area, neither will it enhance our human environment. We share our property for hunting, hiking, bird watching or just plain to enjoy the peacefulness of it with our neighbors and friends. Their human environment will also be negatively impacted.

I request that the EIS inventories flora and fauna species possibly affected by the proposed rail construction as well as describe the short, long and cumulative effects this project will have on the flora and fauna in this area. The EIS should include a plan to mitigate all the negative impacts caused by this proposed project.

As an alternative I suggest that the current rail in Rock County would be used, my preferred option would be that you deny the GLBT Inc project outright.

Sincerely,
Mark and Mirjam Melin
8608 East Rye Drive
Clinton, WI 53525

